



PATENT  
450101-2980.2

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Tsuyoshi Oda  
Serial No. : 09/474,479  
Filed : December 29, 1999  
For : **PICTURE ENCODING METHOD, PICTURE  
ENCODING APPARATUS AND PICTURE  
RECORDING MEDIUM**  
Examiner : Anand Shashikant Rao  
Art Unit : 2613

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 30, 2004, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

09/01/2004 MAHMED1 00000030 09474479

02 FC:1252

420.00 OP